

Key to more transit service:

Expanding Atlantic/Central bases

King County is growing, and so is its demand for bus service. King County Metro Transit plans to add 450 new buses to its fleet by 2020, and is expanding its bus parking and maintenance facilities in Seattle's SODO industrial district (south and east of the Seahawk Football Stadium and Safeco Field) to support the growing fleet.

The three adjacent bus bases in this area, Atlantic, Central, and

Ryerson, together make up the largest campus in the Metro system, a total of 33 acres with the recent addition of 7.2 acres of new property.

The expansion will allow Metro Transit to house more than 550 buses at the combined facility, a 50 percent increase over its present capacity of 370. More than 1,000 bus operators will be based at the campus, along with maintenance and other personnel. Parking for these employees will

be consolidated into a new employee parking garage, freeing space at each base for bus operations.

Metro Transit began purchasing property for the expansion in late 2001, providing relocation assistance to businesses and organizations in the affected area. The entire project, including demolition or remodeling of existing structures and the construction of new ones, is scheduled to be finished in 2007.



Crushed concrete from demolished warehouses will be reused during construction (see page 2 for details).

Demolition and construction

The first construction phase involved the demolition of several warehouses along 6th Avenue South to make room for the new employee parking garage. Businesses and organizations that were housed in those buildings were relocated, most within the SODO area, by the end of 2002, and the building demolition was completed in July. Several underground fuel storage tanks were found on the site and safely removed, and timbers and concrete from the demolished buildings are being recycled (see article on page 2).

Near the site of the demolished buildings, the Washington State Department of Transportation is continuing its work on the SR-519

overpass above Ryerson Base and the E-3 Busway. The overpass was designed to carry traffic over railroad tracks in the area and provide quick access to I-5 and I-90 from Safeco Field. The project is ahead of schedule, so disruptions to Ryerson Base should be over by next spring instead of November 2004 as originally planned.

Sound Transit has been relocating the power lines along the E-3 Busway and plans to begin work later this year on building a light rail line along the east side of the busway. This work, which will be completed over the next few years, will involve realigning much of the busway.

Demolition achieved high recycling rate

The warehouses that were demolished along 6th Avenue South earlier this year contained a valuable resource: 200,000 board feet of large-dimension timbers which the county's contractor, Iconco, Inc., carefully removed and sold for reuse. Project Manager Mike Stanaszek described these huge beams, old-growth timbers approximately four feet by one foot thick, as "bigger than you can buy normally in a store these days."

The concrete from the demolished buildings was also processed onsite for reuse. Crushed and collected in a large pile next to the Atlantic (or North) bus yard, it will be used as fill under new construc-

tion. This treatment allowed us to avoid disposal costs, keep the concrete out of a landfill, and save the cost of buying new fill material.

Overall, Stanaszek said, the demolition contract achieved 90 percent of material recycling and reuse, a level that exceeded all expectations. Not only did this reduce the cost of the demolition, but it was also recognized in July by the King County Green Building Team. The team commended the project for outstanding work in support of the County's Green Building Initiative, which promotes the use of eco-friendly practices in all County construction, remodel, and renovation projects.

Material	Amount generated	Amount recycled/reused	Final use
Concrete	15,000 tons	100%	Crushed on site for reuse as backfill
Wood timbers	292 tons	100%	Removed, remilled, and sold for reuse
Soil	12,000 tons	100%	Reused offsite as clean fill
Metals	300 tons	100%	Sorted on site and recycled offsite
Mixed debris, regulated waste	3,000 tons	0%	Disposed of offsite
Totals:	30,592 tons	90%	

Warehouse demolition along 6th Avenue South achieved a higher-than-expected recycling/reuse rate of 90 percent.

Construction to begin on employee parking garage

The contract for building the new five-story employee parking garage and pedestrian bridge to Ryerson Base is currently out for bid. Construction is slated to begin this fall and be completed by the end of 2004. Building the new garage is a critical step in the overall base expansion, because it will free current parking areas for

other phases of the project, including:

- Expanded bus parking in the Central Base south yard;
- Construction of the new Central Base paint and body building;
- Expanded bus parking for the Atlantic Base north yard; and
- Light rail construction on the temporary Ryerson employee lot along the E-3 Busway.

Even though the number of base employees who use alternative transportation is greater than the commute-trip reduction standards outlined in Metro's transportation management plan, the new parking garage's 1,000 stalls will be needed to meet peak-hour demand when the expanded bases are operating at full capacity. The garage will include space for transit police and non-revenue vehicles on the first level, and stalls on the second through fifth levels for employees,

base visitors, and persons attending training and meetings at the bases. Some oversized-vehicle parking will be available — on a first-come, first-served basis — on the ramp between the first and second levels. The garage will also have covered space for bicycle parking and two elevators. The pedestrian bridge over the E-3 Busway to Ryerson Base will exit the garage on the fourth level and cross over the busway, with stairs and an elevator connecting it on the west side to the Ryerson north yard.

Garage security

Monitored security cameras will be located throughout the garage, as well as alarms that employees can activate in case of emergency. Both vehicles and personnel will require Metro employee access badges to enter the garage. Motion detector alarms will sound if anyone tries to gain access at the vehicle entrance without an appropriate access badge.



Warehouse demolition last April.

Design team moves ahead with project plans

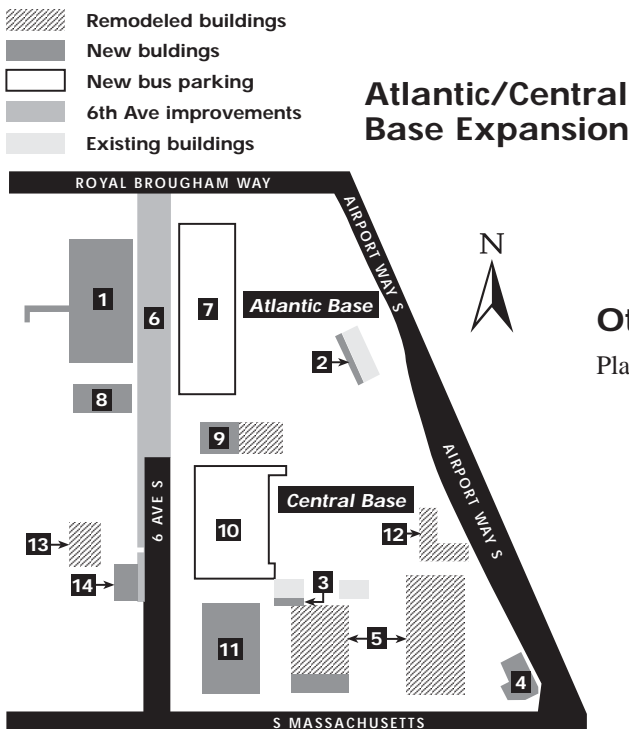
Earlier this year, Tetra Tech/KCM Inc. was selected as the primary consultant for design, engineering, and architecture for the base expansion's new buildings and upgraded facilities. Designers from both King County Metro and Tetra Tech/KCM have been working closely with vehicle maintenance staff and management at the bases to develop plans for the construction projects that will begin in 2004. These include a new fuel island at Atlantic Base, a steam clean bay and tire

shop at Central base, and modifications to both the Atlantic and Central maintenance buildings. King County Metro staff are leading the design for the fuel island and steam clean bay, with support from Tetra Tech/KCM.

Construction projects to begin in 2004 Tire shop

The new 9,000-square-foot tire shop at the Atlantic/Central base complex will replace the one existing tire bay at the Atlantic Maintenance Building and combine existing millwright functions for the Atlantic and Central bases and for non-revenue vehicles. It will feature one pull-in/back-out service bay and one drive-through bay for both diesel and trolley coaches, a bulk tire storage area, and a millwright shop.

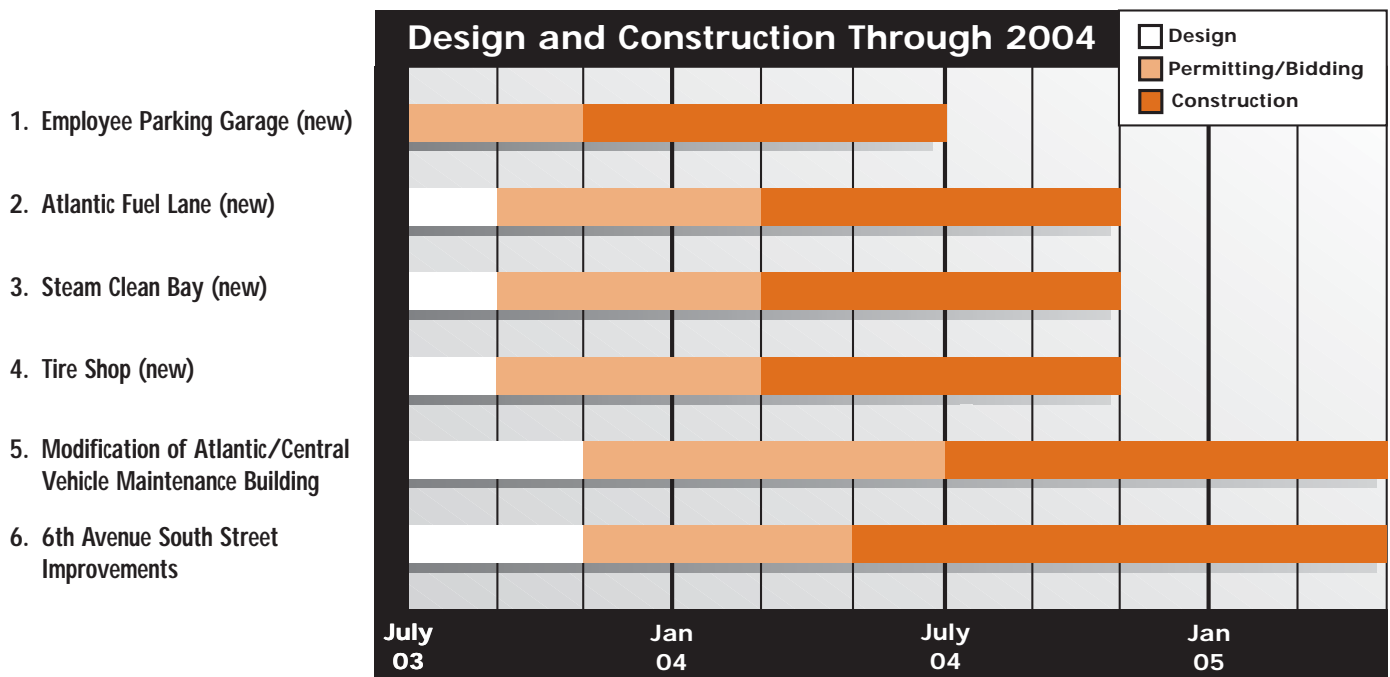
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Other base construction projects

Planning and design will continue for the following base expansion projects:

- Atlantic (North) bus yard (expanded)
- Communications center (new)
- Operations building (expanded and remodeled)
- Central (South) bus yard (expanded)
- Paint and body building (new)
- Non-revenue vehicle building (remodeled)
- Marketing building (remodeled)
- Storage warehouse (new)



Fuel lane improvements and new fuel island

Improvements will be made to the reserve fuel lane at Central Base. A new fuel island south of the Atlantic Fuel/Wash Building will feature a canopy and wind screen and a new fare collection vault.

Steam Cleaning Bay

Central Base Vehicle Maintenance will finally have its own steam cleaning facility, an open-air steam bay under a new canopy between the Maintenance and Wash Buildings. The new bay will feature a state-of-the-art parallelogram lift similar to the new lift at the Bellevue Base Steam Bay.

Maintenance buildings

Modifications to the Atlantic and Central maintenance buildings will include installation of new coach lifts, vehicle exhaust fans, overhead wire, and fall protection devices, plus expansion of parts and tool storage areas. These upgrades will provide a total of eight additional "running repair" bays at the two bases.

Trolley wire

Construction of the tire shop, fuel lane, and new wider north gate will all require modifications to the overhead trolley wire in those areas, which will have some impacts for operators.

Future projects for base expansion

Communications center

Design began this summer for the Communications Center that will be built on the west side of 6th Avenue South just south of the employee parking garage.

Operations building

Design will begin next spring on the renovation of the existing three-story Operations building and on the new Operations building that will be built just to the west of the existing one, on the site of the Atlantic Street cul-de-sac. The design team will work closely with base supervisors and operators in developing plans for these buildings. The new Operations complex will be expanded to include a larger driver report and dispatch area, added office area for chiefs and administrative staff, expanded locker and shower rooms, and bathrooms on the first floor.

Street improvements

The expansion/remodeling project involves several street improvements scheduled to begin in mid-2004, including reconstruction of 1700 feet of 6th Avenue South, which will add 10 new bus lay-over spaces; minor modifications to Royal Brougham Way South, Airport Way South, and South Massachusetts Street; and perimeter landscaping, lighting, and fencing.

Paint and body building

A new 40,000-square-foot facility will handle body and paint work for all three bases on the Central campus. The building will be designed for efficiency and will meet current air quality and workplace standards. It will include two drive-through paint preparation and paint lanes and pre-engineered paint booths. There will also be six body repair bays, sheet metal and welding shops, an electronics shop (currently housed in the Atlantic maintenance building), and an upholstery shop, plus room for future expansion. Construction for this building is expected to begin sometime in 2005.

Non-Revenue Vehicle building

After the Transit Police move to a new location, the second floor will be remodeled, opening space for other operations needs.

Online traffic updates

As part of the public outreach for the expansion project, King County Metro has joined with many other agencies in a public/private partnership with the SODO Business Association. The group has developed a Web site, SODOTraffic.com, that provides information about traffic impacts from the various transportation construction projects in the SODO and Duwamish Industrial areas. Visitors to the site can also sign up to receive periodic e-mail updates about upcoming traffic disruptions.

For more information

Additional project information about the Atlantic/Central base expansion can be found on the King County Web site at www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/alts/basepgm. If you have questions about the project, please contact Patrick Duhon, community relations planner:

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